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held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 18-22 November 1996 and 7 February 1997

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CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs
	Introduction	1 - 6
I.	Developments in international investment: interaction between investment and trade and its impact on development (agenda item 3)	7 - 28
II.	Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development (agenda item 4)	29 - 45
III.	Reports requiring the attention of the Commission (agenda item 5)	46 - 63
IV.	Action by the Commission and proceedings of the closing plenary	64 - 84
V.	Organizational matters	85 - 89

Annexes

I. Agreed conclusions

II. List of panellists for panel discussions

III. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission

IV. Attendance

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INTRODUCTION

1. The first session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 18-22 November 1996 and 7 February 1997. In the course of the session, the Commission held seven plenary meetings (1st to 7th meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

2. Also in the course of the session, two panel discussions were organized, the first on "Attracting FDI for development: lessons for LDCs", and the second on "Experiences of developing countries with the implementation of competition law and policy".

3. In parallel to the Commission, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) held its second annual meeting. WAIPA contributed to the Commission's work by providing the panellists for the Commission's first panel.

Opening statements

4. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the Commission provided a forum in which all countries could discuss the investment issue, especially from a development angle, and had the facility to involve civil society at large. At the most recent session of the Trade and Development Board, a high-level segment (Global Investment Forum) had been devoted to the question of foreign direct investment in a globalizing economy, and a number of conclusions could be drawn from the discussions that had taken place. Firstly, all countries recognized FDI as an important issue, particularly in the development context; secondly, UNCTAD was regarded as a forum in which the whole range of issues relating to FDI could be discussed; and thirdly, UNCTAD had the capacity to prepare for such discussions substantively and organize them efficiently. The secretariat's research, analysis and organizational capacity would be at the disposal of the Commission for its future activities, and of course the secretariat remained entirely open to cooperation with other international organizations. Finally, the mandate of the Commission also included competition policy, technology and other financial flows, which opened up a number of possibilities for synergies.

5. The **Chairperson** said that, over the years, attitudes towards foreign investment had changed markedly, and FDI was now acclaimed as a powerful tool for development. Both developed and developing countries had liberalized their rules on foreign investment in order to attract more FDI, but there was still a diversity of national priorities and objectives as far as FDI was concerned, and the possibility of multilateralizing FDI rules should be examined. A related issue was competition policy, which could become a constraining factor as liberalization proceeded.

6. The **Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** pointed to the importance that UNCTAD attached to a better understanding of the role of FDI in the process of sustainable global

development. In this regard, she emphasized on the one hand the growing importance of transnational corporations in the world economy and the increasingly inextricable interlinkages between investment and trade that arose out of TNCs' global networks, and on the other the highly uneven distribution of FDI and the marginalization of the LDCs, especially in Africa, in this regard. Pushed by competitive pressures and pulled by the attractiveness of large markets, FDI mostly bypassed developing countries, rendering insufficient all of their efforts to improve the domestic FDI environment. Developing countries should focus on building attractiveness at home by such means as, for example, strengthening the local enterprise sector and the skill endowment of the workforce.

Chapter I

DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT: INTERACTION BETWEEN INVESTMENT AND TRADE AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 3)

7. For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documentation:

"Overview of the World Investment Report 1996: Investment, Trade and International Policy Arrangements" (UNCTAD/DTCI/32(Overview));

World Investment Report 1996 (UNCTAD/DTCI/32) (background document);

"Experiences gained in technical cooperation with respect to 'best practices' in investment promotion: background document prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/COM.2/Misc.1).

8. In his introductory remarks, the **Chief of the International Investment, Transnationals and Technology Branch of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** highlighted some salient points relating to the interrelationship between FDI and trade and the policy implications arising therefrom. While trade had grown rapidly, FDI had also grown rapidly since the early 1980s - in fact, more rapidly than trade and domestic production. Sales by foreign affiliates were now higher than exports. FDI was not only now more important than trade in linking markets internationally, it was also a mechanism to link the production systems of countries internationally. It involved the establishment of lasting relationships, increasingly within the framework of internationally integrated TNC systems that could serve as conduits of capital, technology, know-how and skills, as well as conduits of imports and exports. Estimates regarding the share of world trade undertaken by TNCs showed how closely FDI and trade were interrelated, underscoring the importance of questions related to that interrelationship and the answers to those questions in the context of a changing world economy.

9. The dynamics of the interrelationship between investment and trade had undergone a dramatic change in recent years. In the present globalizing world economy, manufacturing firms had more options than ever before in terms of choosing how to serve foreign markets and accessing resources. As a result, the issue was no longer whether trade led to FDI or FDI led to trade but how firms accessed resources and where they located their value-added activities; investment and trade flows were determined simultaneously by the locational decisions of TNCs.

10. This greater intertwining of FDI and trade called for coordinated policy approaches. The principal policy issues to be addressed included measures affecting the entry and operations of foreign investors; standards of treatment as applied to TNCs, notably issues of national treatment, MFN treatment, and fair and equitable treatment; broader concerns relating to measures dealing with the proper functioning of the market, including such issues as RBPs; and investment protection and the settlement of disputes.

11. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Panama) recalled the increased importance of FDI and the developing countries' experiences in this regard and noted the need to achieve the greatest international consensus in order to safeguard both the interests of developing countries and investors. In this regard, the Commission should promote further understanding of these issues. Attempts to regulate FDI should take into account that the FDI issue was inextricably linked with trade issues and intellectual property rights, and UNCTAD should therefore promote the study of these important areas. He also called for increased cooperation among international organizations on matters related to FDI and pointed to the example of the recent Global Investment Forum in this regard.

12. The spokesman for the **Asian Group and China** (Pakistan), said that countries were increasingly aware of the relationship between FDI and trade. In most countries, there was an effort to attract FDI with the objective of enhancing exports, supplementing domestic savings, developing infrastructure and catalysing technical progress. He emphasized, however, that while FDI could play a role in attaining these objectives, no simplistic conclusion should be drawn to the effect that all FDI was good for development. In particular, the Asian experience illustrated that careful regulation of FDI flows was necessary. Indeed, FDI could negatively impact the development process, for example through TNC entry that inhibited the growth of domestic firms, through the repatriation of capital that aggravated balance-of-payments difficulties, or through social and environmental effects that impeded further economic development. Furthermore, anticipated technology spillovers might not materialize. At the same time, FDI remained narrowly distributed in a few developing countries: most countries that needed inflows of foreign capital and know-how did not have the capacity to attract FDI, and the international community was increasingly reluctant to assist their development efforts. In this context, the emphasis on liberalization should also raise questions of the development needs of host countries, especially as regards human resources and infrastructure, which were also required for attracting FDI. Measures should also be taken by home countries to encourage FDI outflows. In general, the impact of FDI on development would need further analytical study in order to provide a basis for policies to ensure that FDI contributed to development. In particular, the secretariat's work should focus on: (i) empirical studies on the effect of FDI on development as a whole; (ii) steps that could be taken by home countries to promote FDI; and (iii) studies on the impact of FDI liberalization measures on FDI flows and their consequent effects on trade and development.

13. The representative of **Ireland**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, pointed out that, although the last few years had seen an extraordinary increase in FDI flows to developing countries, there were still countries where FDI was excluded from certain sectors of the economy or where inflows were inhibited due to shortcomings in the political, economic and institutional environment and a legacy of distrust towards FDI. International assistance for efforts to attract FDI could only succeed when appropriate frameworks were in place in host countries. Recalling the analysis of FDI/trade interlinkages provided in the World Investment Report 1996 , he emphasized that the interrelationships between trade and FDI had to be taken into account in national and international policy formulation. The European Union favoured early progress towards a multilateral FDI instrument to be negotiated in WTO. At the same time, it welcomed the cooperation

between WTO and UNCTAD on trade and FDI issues. As to UNCTAD's work, he called for action-oriented work aimed at assisting developing countries, especially LDCs, in their efforts to attract higher levels of FDI, including: (i) further analysis of trends and changes in FDI flows, with a particular focus on LDCs; (ii) study of experiences of LDCs that were beginning to attract higher FDI inflows; (iii) capacity-building in LDCs so as to improve their investment climate, including strengthening access to information and formulation of policies to attract and benefit from FDI; and (iv) facilitating exchange of experiences on investment promotion. This work could benefit from technical reports by experts on development aspects of existing regimes, as well as an analysis of policies needed to attract FDI. With regard to the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), he called for work on accounting and reporting to be carried forward as part of the Commission's expert meetings.

14. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco), said that African countries, in particular LDCs, had been left out of the growing globalization of the world economy. The impact of this was all the more severe because flows of official development assistance were at the same time stagnating or declining and indebtedness continued to be a heavy burden for many countries. However, as pointed out in several secretariat studies, FDI potential did exist in Africa. Efforts to realize this potential and to improve the situation would require the assistance of the international community, for example through home countries promoting outflows of FDI to Africa from the developed countries. UNCTAD could serve as a catalyst in this area, as it had shown in undertakings such as the Africa Connect conference. In addition, the global initiative for Africa of the Secretary-General of the United Nations would warrant UNCTAD being actively involved in the area of FDI for the region through a pilot project on FDI profiles for African countries. Other areas on which UNCTAD should focus included South-South cooperation and regional integration. With regard to a multilateral investment framework, UNCTAD should continue to help ensuring that all issues and developments related to such a framework were explored further and that the development dimension was at the centre of the work ahead, through the organization of studies, round tables and seminars, including at the regional level. Questions to be considered in this context included, for example, whether a multilateral agreement on investment was needed, what the advantages of such an agreement were as compared with existing arrangements, whether such an agreement was critical for increasing FDI flows to developing countries and especially to countries in Africa, whether such an agreement would involve special treatment for LDCs, and whether there would be special provisions to take care of specific priorities of developing countries.

15. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that his country was creating an investment climate designed to stimulate FDI inflows and was also cooperating at the regional and international levels in this area. In this regard, UNCTAD's work on the publication of basic legal documents dealing with FDI was welcomed and should be continued. UNCTAD should also continue its analysis of FDI processes, especially as regards the impact of FDI on the transition economies. UNCTAD's experience in the area of FDI should also be used to discuss the proposals for a multilateral investment agreement, in cooperation with other international organizations such as WTO and OECD.

16. The representative of **Senegal** referred to his country's liberalization experiences and noted that, as documented by the UNCTAD secretariat, they had not yet led to significant increases in FDI inflows into the country. That revealed a lack of interest of investors in Africa in general. UNCTAD should work to assist in overcoming this problem and in correcting the negative investment image of Africa.

17. The representative of **Japan** said that the role of FDI in international economic transactions had increased dramatically, and there was now widespread acceptance of FDI as a key instrument in promoting economic growth. At the same time, the existence of more than 1,000 bilateral investment treaties had created a complicated international framework that contributed to distortions of FDI flows. This called for a new, multilateral approach to FDI that would provide the predictability, consistency, transparency and stability required to expand investment flows, including to developing countries, and WTO should initiate work in this regard. For its part, UNCTAD should pursue its policy research and analysis, taking advantage of its well demonstrated expertise in this area. Research should focus on the development dimension of investment, including issues related to increases in national income, transfer of production technology and skills, balance-of-payments considerations and indigenous industries.

18. The representative of **Zambia** said that many least developed countries still lay outside the scope of the activities of transnational corporations, and he endorsed the idea that the secretariat produce investment guides for least developed countries that were objective, contained all the information useful for prospective investors, and showed that investment opportunities did, indeed, exist in least developed countries. He also called for further research on the effects of investment liberalization on development.

19. The representative of **Cuba** provided an overview of the regulatory framework for investment in Cuba and recalled that country's liberalization efforts. He also described the locational advantages of Cuba for foreign investors, advantages which had induced firms from several countries to invest in Cuba.

20. The representative of **Mexico** described Mexico's liberalization efforts intended to attract FDI that could contribute to the volume and quality of employment, transfer of technology and increased exports. He noted that the growth of FDI in developing countries had fallen short of the growth of FDI in general and emphasized the importance of joint efforts by the international community to expand FDI flows to developing countries, in particular LDCs.

21. The representative of **China** underscored the importance of focusing on the interlinkages between trade and investment which were of interest to many countries. He outlined China's reforms aimed at creating an enabling environment for foreign direct investment and pointed to the positive contributions that foreign investment had made to the economic growth of China in recent years. China would continue to adjust and perfect its laws and regulations for FDI with a view to gradually providing the same treatment for local and foreign investors.

22. The representative of **Norway** commended UNCTAD's work in the investment area. With reference to future activities, he called for action-oriented work on the consensus areas spelt out in the Midrand final document, including the interlinkages between trade and investment, investment promotion in developing countries, and capacity-building in the least developed countries.

23. The representative of **Madagascar** called for the Commission to initiate the pilot seminar on the mobilization of the private sector to encourage FDI flows to least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 89 (g) of the "Partnership for Growth and Development", and appealed to donor countries to provide financial assistance for this endeavour. He also called for the implementation of the secretariat's proposal for the preparation of investment guides for all LDCs. As to the issue of a multilateral investment agreement, he recalled the Midrand mandate (para. 89 (b) of the "Partnership for Growth and Development"), noted the rising complementarity and synergy between UNCTAD's work in this respect and that of WTO, and requested the secretariat to contribute in this area.

24. The representative of **Venezuela** highlighted her country's recent liberalization experience, especially in the area of petroleum exploitation and exploration. She also provided a brief overview of the legal framework for investment in the country.

25. The representative of **Bangladesh** recalled his country's liberalization experiences and noted that, despite the efforts made and the numerous incentives offered to investors, only limited FDI inflows had been attracted to the country. He also noted that, in a globalized world economy, the free flow of labour was as important as the free flow of capital, and this issue warranted further attention in UNCTAD's work. The secretariat should also provide guidance to LDCs on how to conduct themselves successfully in the FDI market and should work with LDCs in the preparation of investment guides.

26. The representative of **Sri Lanka** pointed out that FDI produced not only benefits but also numerous costs that could be detrimental to development, such as, for example, possible deterioration of the terms of trade and the balance of payments. To ensure that these costs were minimized, Governments had to regulate entry of and conditions related to FDI. His delegation called for continued international assistance in the area of FDI, and such assistance should not be postponed until an "appropriate framework" existed.

27. The representative of **India** said that the uneven distribution of FDI flows called for further work on the determinants of FDI. In addition, the interrelationship between FDI and development was not always positive and the effects of FDI on development, including the negative effects, needed to be studied further. Governments established national policy frameworks for FDI and trade that had to take into account their development priorities, and any international attempt to develop a framework would also have to take those priorities into account and ensure a proper balance between countries' objectives and the rights of investors, something that would be difficult to achieve at the present time. The trend towards globalization and liberalization of factor movements would gain further momentum in the future and would be as inexorable as the globalization and liberalization of trade in goods and services. A multilateral investment agreement was thus not necessary at this time.

28. Summarizing the discussions under item 3, the **Chief of the International Investment, Transnationals and Technology Branch of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** expressed the secretariat's appreciation to the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway for providing financial support to the secretariat's work on the World Investment Report 1996 and to the Governments of Norway and Switzerland for financial support towards the Global Investment Forum. He noted the comprehensive nature of the discussion, which had underlined, among other things, the importance of FDI for development, both in its own right and in combination with trade; the worrisome fact that many countries received very little FDI; the role of home countries in stimulating FDI; the fact that FDI could also have negative effects; the need for proactive government policies; the need to improve the understanding of the multifaceted impact of FDI, particularly in the context of the liberalization of FDI flows, and the increasing recognition that FDI issues needed to be seen in a broader context, which included trade, competition policy, technology and intellectual property rights. He took note of the various proposals made by delegations concerning the themes for future analytical work, many of which revolved around the relationship between liberalization, FDI flows and development, as well as issues of specific relevance to development considerations in international investment agreements, with a view towards consensus-building. In concluding, he noted that, as suggested by delegations, future work would benefit from the involvement of civil society and close cooperation with other international organizations.

Chapter II

ISSUES RELATED TO COMPETITION LAW OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 4)

29. For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documentation:

"Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development: note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/COM.2/1 and Add.1);

"Agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy" (TD/B/COM.2/EM/L.2);

"Report of the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices" (TD/RBP/CONF.4/15) (background document).

30. The **Senior Programme Manager of the Division of International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities**, having referred to UNCTAD's mandates on competition law and policy and to the documentation on this issue made available to the Commission, discussed the implications of globalization and liberalization for competition policy and the need to strengthen international cooperation in this area. The secretariat had organized a panel discussion within the framework of the Commission's session involving presentations by Mrs. E. Gachuiri of Kenya on "The problems faced by competition authorities in relation to the business community (the Kenyan experience)", Ms. C. Curiel of Venezuela on "The competition advocacy role of the competition authority in creating a level playing field for market players", and Mr. M. Ben Fraj of Tunisia on "The experiences of Tunisia in implementing its competition law and policy". The tasks of the Commission under this agenda item were to undertake general deliberations on the issue, to take decisions on the agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting, and to provide broad guidance for the work of future expert meetings in the field of competition law and policy.

31. The **Vice-Chairman of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy**, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of that Meeting, introduced the report and agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting, which had been held in Geneva from 13 to 15 November 1996. During the consultations held in the course of the Meeting, presentations had been made on the challenges faced by competition authorities in implementing competition law and policy; the treatment of vertical price restraints, by a representative of the European Commission; the application of competition law to monopolies and enterprises with special rights, by a panel of experts from Venezuela, Tunisia, Slovenia and France; and the protection of confidential information, by an expert from the United States Justice Department. Rich debates on these issues had ensued, and special mention was made of the practical methods of work used by the experts in the informal consultations. He then presented the agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting (TD/B/COM.2/EM/L.2), which contained several recommendations for the Commission.

32. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco) said that his Group attached great importance to the issue of competition law and policy. African countries were engaged in deep reforms in this field and had been very interested in the intergovernmental consultations held during the Expert Group created within the framework of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. At the national level, efforts in this field were hampered by the international dimension of RBPs and by the lack of human resources and inadequate institutional structures available in Africa. For these reasons, technical assistance on competition and consumer protection was essential in supporting African countries' efforts to formulate competition law and policy, as recommended by the Third Review Conference and UNCTAD IX in paragraph 91 (iii) of the "Partnership for Growth and Development", which placed special emphasis on Africa.

33. His Group fully supported the agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy and greatly appreciated the work of the Meeting in bringing about a convergence of views in this field. The working methods of the Expert Meeting should serve as a model for other UNCTAD expert meetings. Funding the cost of participation of experts from developing countries would ensure that a broad spectrum of views were heard in the deliberations of the Expert Meeting.

34. He expressed his Group's support for UNCTAD's work on RBPs and for the technical assistance activities which the secretariat provided to interested countries in the area of competition law and policy. Furthermore, his Group believed that UNCTAD provided the most appropriate forum for dealing with the issue of competition law and policies.

35. The spokesman for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Panama) pointed out the importance of competition policy legislation in the establishment of a well-functioning market economy, as well as in enhancing the international competitiveness of national industries. It was important that competition legislation favoured the undisrupted flow of goods and services beyond national borders. He also stressed the importance of international assistance in developing national competition laws and regulations, and thanked the UNCTAD secretariat for the help it had provided with respect to the enactment of competition legislation and the setting-up of national competition authorities. His Group was very pleased with the quality of the work of the Expert Meeting held the previous week, while regretting the insufficient presence of experts from developing countries due to lack of funds. His Group gave its full support for the continuation of UNCTAD's work in the field of competition law and policy.

36. The spokesman for the **Asian Group and China** (Pakistan) said that it was not easy for developing countries in particular to ensure that a competitive environment prevailed and that benefits of liberalization were not eroded by the emergence of RBPs. To undertake this task, technical assistance for the establishment of sound laws and institutions was necessary, and he therefore fully endorsed the Expert Meeting's recommendation that the secretariat should continue its technical cooperation activities in accordance with the relevant resolutions. It was necessary to address anti-competitive tendencies emanating from both domestic and external markets. Liberalization and technological changes had greatly increased the role of transnational

corporations (TNCs). As discussed in TD/B/COM.2/2/Add.1, this might make it more difficult to detect RBPs and to enforce competition policy, and it reinforced the need to assist developing countries' national efforts and to strengthen international cooperation in this area. He welcomed the Expert Meeting's recommendation that the secretariat prepare for consultations during the next meeting on international aspects of competition and the problems of competition law enforcement, including international mergers and industrial concentration, and requested a background document placing this issue in the context of TNC operations impinging on competition policy issues and enumerating policy options for host countries. He emphasized that, since the representation of developing countries at the Expert Meeting had not been adequate, it was necessary to operationalize the related trust fund quickly to enhance the participation of experts from these countries.

37. The representative of the **United States of America** said that he shared the views expressed by other delegations on the usefulness of the work of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy. He noted that the agreed recommendations of the Expert Meeting were silent about the status of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. It had been agreed by the General Assembly in 1980 that UNCTAD was an appropriate forum to discuss competition law and policy issues. He would not make any judgement about the relative value of UNCTAD as a forum vis-à-vis other possible multilateral forums for discussing such issues.

38. The representative of **Japan** said that the Set had played an extremely important role in drawing the attention of the international community to the issue of restrictive business practices and contributed to the transparency and convergence of national regulations. The disciplines in the Set, which dealt with business practices by enterprises, were non-binding, and this should not be changed at this stage. Since competition laws and policy represented an extremely multidimensional and complicated issue, more international organizations would be involved in its consideration in the years to come. His delegation recognized UNCTAD's important contribution to the promotion of the smooth implementation of the Set, helping to promote international harmonization of rules and improving transparency in respect of restrictive business practices in developing countries. After reporting on his country's technical assistance activities in support of developing countries' efforts to adopt and implement competition laws and policy, he proposed that UNCTAD should formulate model courses on competition policy corresponding to the stage of development of countries and their experience in the implementation of competition law and policy.

39. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that great changes had occurred in the area of competition and entrepreneurship in the CIS countries. The Russian Federation had made many positive changes in transforming the highly monopolistic economy inherited from the Soviet Union. It had adopted an Antimonopoly Act and created an Antimonopoly Commission, and it was now working on further improvements. However, the Russian Federation lacked skilled manpower and research institutions in the field of competition, and CIS countries had not received much technical assistance from UNCTAD. The Russian Federation therefore appealed to the UNCTAD secretariat to respond favourably to the CIS countries' request for technical assistance submitted to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in 1995. He hoped that international

organizations would cooperate in work towards multilateral rules on competition promoting market access. He also proposed that a Manual on Competition and Investment dealing with RBPs should be prepared.

40. The representative of **Consumer International** said her organization, in cooperation with the Civil Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) of India, had recently organized a seminar on "Investments: Consumers, Development and the Environment". It was the strongest economies which would gain most from greater trade liberalization, while some of the poorest countries would lose out in the short term. With regard to a multilateral agreement on investment (MAI), corporate rights and the freedom to invest must be balanced with responsibility towards employees, customers and local governments. Consumer International was concerned that the interests of business were being allowed to override those of consumers, workers and the environment in a rush to provide the greatest incentives possible to investors. It strongly supported UNCTAD's role in the area of competition law and policy and its provision of technical assistance. She urged member States to consider a discussion of international competition policy under the auspices of WTO in order to strengthen national sovereignty in relation to global corporations.

41. The representative of **Ethiopia** said that his country had initiated the process of drafting competition legislation and would therefore be requesting the UNCTAD secretariat to provide appropriate technical assistance.

42. The representative of **Mexico** described his country's projects aimed at developing internal and external competition in the period 1996 through 2000. With respect to efforts aimed at protecting competition at the level of external trade, he drew attention to Mexico's important anti-dumping procedures.

43. The representative of **China** expressed gratitude to the secretariat for its work in the field of competition law and policy and hoped that the study that had been requested would be completed by the secretariat at an early date and distributed to all member States. He also expressed the hope that the secretariat would be able in the future to extend technical assistance to all States, and especially least developed countries, taking into account their specific situation and in accordance with their needs.

44. China had started work on competition legislation in 1987, and by 1993 it had passed laws against unfair competition. It was now in the process of refining its competition legislation. Apart from the central Government, local governments had also adopted rules and regulations on competition. He recalled that four workshops on competition had been held in China under the auspices of UNCTAD, with the participation of experts from a number of individual countries.

45. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that the least developed countries (LDCs) needed special protection if they were to become meaningful players in the new global economy. The LDCs had already taken steps towards making their economies competitive through privatization and liberalization. They had even put in place free trade zones. However, in order to achieve their development objectives, they needed continuous assistance from UNCTAD, OECD, WTO and other development partners. Referring to the statement made by Consumer International, he stated that his country could count on a strong consumer movement.

Chapter III

REPORTS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION

(Agenda item 5)

A. Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its fourteenth session (TD/B/ITNC/7)

46. **The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) at its fourteenth session** presented the Working Group's report. He explained ISAR's origin in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its role in the harmonization of national accounting standards. He also noted that ISAR's work was in line with the outcome of Midrand in that while the Group was composed of government experts, it had the participation of civil society in the form of professional accounting associations and committees. It also combined technical discussions with practical activities for the benefit of developing countries. He summarized the work of the fourteenth session on accounting for commercial banks, government concessions and the environment, as well as the Group's efforts to improve accounting education and professional qualifications in developing countries, particularly Africa. With regard to banking, he noted that ISAR's discussions had been enriched by a special banking forum of high-level bank managers, bank directors, bank regulators and bank auditors.

47. The representatives of **Ethiopia** and **Zambia** asked questions on the status of the accounting profession in Africa, the problems of the profession and the solutions identified.

48. A **representative of the UNCTAD secretariat** replied that in some African countries there were few qualified accountants because there were no national degrees and no national professional associations. Training therefore needed to be improved and associations created or strengthened. One solution for improving the quality and quantity of accountants would be via a benchmark for professional qualifications.

49. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that the results of ISAR's work had been positive, particularly for his country, and he hoped that ISAR would be able to continue in the future. He asked for clarification on whether the Commission could or could not approve the convening of the next session since ISAR had been established by ECOSOC.

50. The **Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** replied that ISAR had formerly reported to the Commission on Transnational Corporations and had been transferred to UNCTAD, and it was now the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues which received its report. Its status in UNCTAD had been recognized in paragraph 115 of the "Partnership for Growth and Development", and therefore the Commission could decide on its future sessions.

51. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco) said that the richness of the information provided by ISAR's Chairman reflected the importance of the Group. He stressed first that ISAR should continue its work and second that it offered developing countries the possibility of being equitably represented and expressing their views on this complex question. Regarding the status of ISAR, he underlined that it had existed before Midrand and that paragraph 115 of the "Partnership for Growth and Development" was open to different interpretations. His Group wanted ISAR to continue its work and receive special treatment, because it had been created before Midrand and had received its mandate from ECOSOC.

52. The spokesman for the **Asian Group** (Pakistan) said that his Group agreed with the African Group. ISAR was doing useful work and should continue its work in accordance with its special status. In his opinion paragraph 115 of the "Partnership for Growth and Development" was being interpreted incorrectly by some delegations.

53. The representative of the **United States of America** stated that he disagreed entirely with Morocco and Pakistan regarding the output of the Group and its future. His country declined to accept the report of the Group or its recommendations. It considered that the Group had ceased to exist, and any further work in the field in question should be done within the framework of an expert meeting.

54. The representative of **India** supported the statements of the representatives of Morocco and Pakistan. In view of the importance of the Group's work, he asked if UNCTAD had developed a technical assistance programme to implement the findings of the Group.

55. The **Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** replied that there were projects and/or workshops in Azerbaijan, China, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, and a workshop was planned for Bangladesh.

56. The representative of **Ireland**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, referred to the very useful work undertaken by ISAR; under UNCTAD's new institutional structure, that work must be carried out by an expert meeting.

57. The spokesman for **Latin America and the Caribbean** (Panama) said that Morocco and Pakistan had clearly expressed the sentiments of developing countries on the work of ISAR. His Group attached special importance to continuing the Group, which was considered useful by all for developing countries, as well as for the global community. His Group therefore associated itself with the conclusions proposed by the Chairman of ISAR. It also insisted on special treatment for the work of the Group, which was the only group mentioned expressly in the "Partnership for Growth and Development".

58. The representative of **China** supported the statements of Morocco, Pakistan and Panama.

59. The representative of **Japan** said that his country agreed with the United States and the European Union on the status of the Group. Future work in this area must be done by an expert meeting, and it must be compared with other possible topics.

60. The representative of **Australia** agreed with the European Union that work by ISAR must be considered within the context of UNCTAD's post-Midrand structure. Regarding work on developing an international benchmark for professional qualifications, this was a complex task, and she wondered if work by UNCTAD would help meet the need identified. It was not clear how an international benchmark, if established, could be administered, particularly by UNCTAD. The problem was more the lack of infrastructure in education and training in developing countries to produce recognized qualifications. Technical assistance was needed at the country level.

61. The representative of **Canada** agreed that future work on accounting and reporting should be carried out through an expert meeting, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the "Partnership for Growth and Development".

B. Activities of the Programme on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development: report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/COM.2/Misc.2)

62. The **Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development** gave an oral report on the activities of the Division in the five main areas of its work: investment and transnational corporations; science and technology for development; advisory services for investment and technology; privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness; and international accounting and reporting. Based on the background documentation provided by the secretariat (TD/B/COM.2/Misc.2), she stressed that, despite continuously shrinking resources under the regular budget, the programmes comprising the new Division had produced some 40 publications, technical papers and reports, and undertaken numerous advisory missions, workshops and training activities. She expressed her gratitude to a number of Governments for their Trust Fund contributions and expressed her hope that traditional donors would renew their commitments and new donors would come forward.

Action by the Commission

63. The Commission took note of the report of the secretariat.

Chapter IV

ACTION BY THE COMMISSION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLOSING PLENARY

Action by the Commission

64. At its 7th (closing) plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Commission adopted its draft agreed conclusions on agenda items 3 and 4 (TD/B/COM.2/L.2). (For the text of the agreed conclusions, see annex I.)

Closing statements

65. The representative of **Bangladesh** said that his delegation had held informal consultations with a number of LDC delegations present in Geneva in connection with the Commission's conclusions. Most of those delegations felt that the inclusion of the term LDC at an appropriate place in the draft conclusions would have enhanced the text. It was the considered view of these delegations that the Midrand Declaration as a whole was suffused with the notion of a need for specific assistance for the LDCs in all of UNCTAD's work. Legally, therefore, there was no bar to including the term LDC in the final conclusions of the Commission in the proper context. Such inclusion would only have reinforced the international community's commitment to design programmes geared to the needs of all developing countries, including in particular the LDCs. The need for FDI was universal, and an in-depth study of this vital subject by UNCTAD could benefit LDCs as much as other economic entities.

66. In the interest of consensus, however, a few of the LDCs had requested him to convey their agreement to the conclusions. The LDCs expected the Chairperson, by way of a note appearing as an addendum to the conclusions, to draw the attention of the international community to the pressing needs of the LDCs. The note could be couched in the language which the Chairperson deemed fit in the context and which the Chairperson believed to properly reflect the concern of the LDC community.

67. The **Chairperson** drew attention to paragraph 3 of the agreed conclusions of the Commission and said that that paragraph would provide a focus for the future work of UNCTAD.

68. The spokesman for the **African Group** (Morocco) said that the agreed conclusions were more or less satisfactory to all. With regard to paragraph 8 (c) of the conclusions, it was his Group's understanding that the President of the Trade and Development Board would proceed with consultations on the question of the status of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, as well as on the question of the relationship between the status of those intergovernmental groups and the expert meetings referred to in paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development". It was the clear understanding of the African Group that if, as a result of the consultations, it was considered that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy did not fall within the quota of 10 expert meetings established in the aforementioned paragraph 114, an expert meeting would be convened to consider the impact of FDI on the transfer of technology to developing countries. With regard to paragraph 9 (b) of the agreed conclusions, it was his Group's understanding

that the meeting to examine and review existing agreements on investment would be only the first phase in the implementation of the mandate set out in paragraph 89 (b) of the "Partnership for Growth and Development".

69. The representative of **Mexico** said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the agreed conclusions in order to allow the Commission's work to progress. With regard to paragraph 9 (a) of the conclusions, it was his country's understanding that the reference to the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy was a reference to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts that had existed before UNCTAD IX and not to one of the expert meetings which were referred to in "A Partnership for Growth and Development" and which lasted for only a few days each. He urged the President of the Trade and Development Board to begin as soon as possible the consultations to define the status of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. The latter was a very useful body, and it would be a mistake to lose its accumulated expertise. Moreover, the Group had been established by the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission was not competent to ignore the Council's decisions. The Group should therefore be maintained, even if that meant reducing the number of expert meetings decided upon at UNCTAD IX to satisfy those delegations that wished to maintain UNCTAD's work within certain limits.

70. The representative of the **Russian Federation** said that many delegations were interested in the continued existence of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. With regard to future work, the Midrand Declaration stipulated that UNCTAD's policy research and analytical work must illuminate the changes in the global economy and facilitate policy formulation within member States as they strove for development. It was clear that the work of UNCTAD must be carried out with the interests of all groups of countries in mind.

71. The spokesperson for the **Latin American and Caribbean Group** (Jamaica) said that her Group strongly underscored the importance of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR). The work of both groups was of significant practical benefit to developing countries. The relevance of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy was beyond question at the present time, and the technical cooperation mandate in that particular area had been reconfirmed by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, as well as by the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy. UNCTAD's work in the field of accounting must also be commended and encouraged. ISAR was the only intergovernmental forum where developing countries could participate in the ongoing process of standardizing accounting standards. It enabled developing countries to review proposed accounting standards, register their opinions on what constituted best practice and receive assistance in the implementation of those standards. The Intergovernmental Group had been established by the Economic and Social Council and reconfirmed by UNCTAD IX. Her Group looked forward to a satisfactory resolution of the matter within the framework of the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board.

72. The representative of the **Netherlands**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, said that the agreed conclusions represented an elegant solution to a problem that had threatened to hold up the ongoing work of the Commission.

73. The spokesman for **Group D** (Bulgaria) said that the work of the Commission represented a top priority for the countries with economies in transition.

74. The spokesman for the **Asian Group and China** (Thailand) said that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting dealt with issues that remained significant for his Group and in connection with which further assistance was needed to enhance the region's capacity to participate more fully and effectively in the world economy, particularly in international trade and investment. His Group was deeply concerned that the non-inclusion of those issues in the agreed list of topics for expert meetings would eventually close the door on continued UNCTAD assistance in the areas in question. However, his Group was encouraged by the prospect that those concerns might still be addressed through representations to the President of the Trade and Development Board that the Chairperson of the Commission might decide to undertake in the future.

75. His Group wished to draw attention to the development needs of Asian LDCs. UNCTAD IX had institutionalized the LDCs as a priority work programme for UNCTAD, and that operating principle must be translated into a programme of practical assistance. Finally, the impact of foreign direct investment on the transfer of technology to developing and developed countries was a matter of concern. The effectiveness of technology transfer in the Asian region was often circumscribed by the capacity of beneficiary States to manage it at the county level. In addition, foreign investment involving technology transfer was often donor-driven.

76. The representative of the **United Republic of Tanzania** said his delegation felt strongly that paragraph 9 (b) of the agreed conclusions should have made reference to the LDCs. It was sometimes tempting, when reference was made to LDCs, to seek to add references to other groups of countries also, but the problems faced by LDCs were more unique and fundamental than those faced by other countries. However, the final text of the agreed conclusions was balanced and took account of LDCs' interests. With regard to future work, it was hoped that the Commission's work on investment would complement the work of WTO in that connection.

77. The representative of **Peru** said that not only would the reports of the meetings referred to in paragraph 9 of the agreed conclusions contribute to the work of the Commission but, at the same time and in the light of the recent WTO Singapore Declaration, they could also be useful for the work of WTO in the field of both competition and investment, as stated in the aforementioned Declaration.

78. The representative of **Chile** said that his delegation would have liked a more precise formulation in paragraph 8 (c) of the agreed conclusions. It was its understanding that the aim of the consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board should be to resolve the issue of the status of

the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

79. The **Chairperson** said she was extremely pleased that agreement had been reached on the Commission's 1997 work programme at the expert level but regretted that no broad consensus had been reached on the status of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

80. With regard to competition law and policy, as indicated in the letter of 13 November 1996 from the President of the Trade and Development Board to H.E. Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Ambassador of Venezuela in New York, it had been agreed to change the title of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy subject to the need for further consultations to consider the differing views of delegations on the relationship between meetings of that Intergovernmental Group of Experts and the expert meetings convened by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".

81. With regard to international standards of accounting and reporting, there was divided opinion on the continued existence of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, partly due to different interpretations of paragraph 115 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development". Apart from that difference of interpretation, some other delegations believed that work in that area could be carried out within the framework of expert meetings and the annual quota for such meetings, as defined in paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".

82. She would therefore request the President of the Trade and Development Board to undertake consultations, as soon as possible, on the status of those two expert bodies and their relationship with other expert meetings to be convened by the Commission. Should the consultations lead to the possibility of convening another expert meeting, it was her understanding that an acceptable topic would be the impact of foreign direct investment on transfer of technology.

83. Concerning the expert meetings to be convened in 1997, two additional points needed to be borne in mind. Firstly, the work of the Commission's expert meetings would take into account the interests and needs of developing countries, in particular the LDCs, and economies in transition. Secondly, the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 9 (b) of the Commission's agreed conclusions was just the beginning of the work mandated in paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".

84. Finally, concerning the format of the Commission's session, the insightful discussions that had taken place had reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as a forum for active and fruitful debate. The session had attracted a number of experts from capitals, as well as actors from civil society. The panel format had worked well, although in future delegations should be informed of the arrangements for such panels well in advance so as to attract the participation of even more experts. It was hoped that the Commission's cooperation with WAIPA would continue, though such cooperation should not result in any additional financial burden for the United Nations.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

85. The first session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues was opened on 18 November 1996 by Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

86. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 November 1996, the Commission elected its Bureau as follows:

Chairperson:	Mrs. Lilia R. Bautista	(Philippines)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Youri Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
	Mr. U.S. Bhatia	(India)
	Mr. Fabien Edafe	(Madagascar)
	Mr. Javier Paulinich	(Peru)
	Mrs. J. Wright	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Atsuyuki Oike	(Japan)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

87. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda circulated in document TD/B/COM.2/1. Accordingly, the agenda for the first session was as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Developments in international investment: interaction between investment and trade and its impact on development
4. Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development
5. Reports requiring the attention of the Commission
6. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

D. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

(Agenda item 6)

88. At its 7th (closing) plenary meeting, on 7 February 1997, the Commission adopted the draft provisional agenda for its second session (TD/B/COM.2/L.3). (For the provisional agenda, see annex III.)

E. Adoption of the report of the Commission

(Agenda item 8)

89. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its first session (TD/B/COM.2/L.1 and Add.1 and 2), as amended and subject to further amendments by member States to the summaries of their statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the text of the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex I

DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT: INTERACTION BETWEEN INVESTMENT AND TRADE AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES RELATED TO COMPETITION LAW OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO DEVELOPMENT

Agreed conclusions

Focus of future work

1. The Commission encourages UNCTAD to continue to promote dialogue among development partners, including at the regional level.

2. The Commission recommends continued efforts by the secretariat to improve its collection of investment and related data, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and national Governments, as well as the harmonization, standardization and dissemination of such data.

3. The Commission recognizes the need expressed by many developing countries, in particular LDCs, for empirical studies to shed further light on the impact on development of liberalizing domestic investment regimes.

4. Noting that several countries have agreed to undertake investment policy reviews, as well as science, technology and innovation policy reviews, the Commission looks forward to receiving these reviews in order to familiarize other Governments and the international private sector with their results.

5. The Commission appreciates the utility and analytical quality of the World Investment Report.

6. The Commission invites contributions to support UNCTAD's programme with extrabudgetary resources, especially for technical assistance and for projects involving LDCs and countries in Africa, and expresses its appreciation to those countries that have already done so.

7. The Commission welcomes the work of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and calls for continued collaboration with WAIPA in promoting the exchange of experiences on investment promotion practices.

8. The Commission:

(a) Endorses the recommendations of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy;

(b) Takes note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) and takes no decision on the recommendations therein; and

(c) Takes note of the Chairperson's stated intention to request the President of the Trade and Development Board to undertake consultations to resolve the deadlock over the issue of expert-level activity.

9. The Commission agrees to convene:

(a) A meeting on competition law and policy, as called for in the report of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy;

(b) A meeting to examine and review existing agreements on investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries, and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations, in pursuance of the mandate of paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" to identify and analyse implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment;

(c) A meeting on investment promotion and suggested measures in this respect that further development objectives.

Annex II

LIST OF PANELLISTS FOR PANEL DISCUSSIONS

A. Panel on "Attracting FDI for development: lessons for LDCs"
(agenda item 3)

Mr. Páid McMenamin
Managing Director, International Development Ireland Limited (IDI),
Chairman of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

Mr. Arvind Mayaram
Managing Director, Bureau of Industrial Promotion (BIP), Rajasthan, India

Mr. Rick Schulberg
Director, Organizing Committee for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Sustainable Development, Training and Information Network

Mr. Ahmed Shahrior Chowdhury
Member, Executive Council, Board of Investment, Bangladesh

Mr. Freddie Ruhindi
Corporation Secretary, Uganda Investment Authority

Mr. Chris Tillet
Associate Director, Coopers & Lybrand, Great Britain

B. Panel on "Experiences of developing countries with the implementation of competition law and policy"

Ms. Elizabeth Gachuiri
Senior Economist with the Monopolies and Prices Commission at the Ministry of Finance, Kenya

Ms. Claudia Curiel
Director of Research at the Superintendency for the Promotion and Protection of Free Competition (Pro-Competencial) of Venezuela

Mr. Mohamed Ben Fraj
Director of General Directorate of Competition at the Ministry of Commerce of Tunisia

Annex III

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Recent developments in foreign direct investment trends and policies

4. Examining and reviewing existing agreements on investment to identify their implications for development, as called for in paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development"

5. Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

6. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission

7. Other business

8. Adoption of the report.

Annex IV

ATTENDANCE [1]

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zambia

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[1] For the list of participants, see TD/B/COM.2/INF.1.

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the session:

Angola
Ecuador
El Salvador
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Mauritius
Nepal
Nicaragua
Yemen

3. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO was also represented.

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunication Union
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Caribbean Community
European Community
Arab Labour Organization
Organization of African Unity

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Environmental Law
World Federation of United Nations Associations

Special Category

Consumers International